

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Conference of State Secretaries Regarding Rural Development

14. **SHRI NAVIN RAVANI:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day conference of State Secretaries and senior officials dealing with rural development was held in New Delhi during the month of November, 1982; and

(b) if so, what are the suggestions made for the development of said programme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARINATHA MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A conference of Secretaries to State Governments and Union Administrations was held on 8th and 9th November, 1982, with the object of reviewing the progress in the implementation of important programmes of the Ministry, viz., the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the National Rural Employment Programme, the Drought Prone Areas Programme, the Desert Development Programme, Land Reforms, Agricultural Marketing, Rural Godowns, etc. The Conference was not convened to discuss policy issues.

Leave Benefits for Workers of Chatham Saw Mills in A & N Islands

15. **SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received communication in connection with extension of leave benefits under C. C. S. (Leave) Rules, 1972 to workmen of Mill Division, Chatham (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); if so, from whom and when;

(b) how many reminders were received in this connection to expedite the matter;

(c) whether the workmen of Chatham Saw Mills in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are agitating; and

(d) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) A communication dated 6-9-1982 has been received from the Chief Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar Islands seeking approval for extension of leave benefits under C. C. S. (Leave) Rules, 1972 to workmen of Mill Division, Chatham (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) on 17-9-1982.

(b) None.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The matter is under consideration in consultation with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The latter have been asked to furnish certain clarifications details, which are still awaited.

Hinderance in Development Works due to Declaration of Reserved Forest Areas

16. **SHRI T. S. NEGI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of declaration of Reserved Forest Areas under the new Forest Act various development works already in hand and in progress by the State Governments have come to a standstill;

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government have taken in the matter; and

(c) whether Government would set up suitable committees for such areas with sufficient powers so that approved works are not delayed and the ecological angle is fully protected?